GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3417
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2017
Restriction on Migration to Gulf
Reddy,Kotha Prabhakar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is imposing restrictions on migration to Gulf countries in view of the problems being faced by the Indians in these countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to bring the already migrated Indians back to India; and

(d) the number of people benefitted by this mission?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V.K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (d) The government is closely monitoring the evolving situation in the Gulf region arising from security related concerns as well as the ongoing economic downturn and is taking necessary measures for the safety and welfare of Indian nationals in the region.

Indian nationals are advised not to travel to Yemen in the Gulf region in view of the security situation. The government has also put in place a few Foreign Employers in Prior Approval Category for undertaking new recruitment of Indian workers where there are issues related to unpaid salaries and the Foreign Employer is facing financial difficulty.

In addition, the government has taken further measures to safeguard the interests of Indian female workers migrating to ECR countries in view of complaints of exploitation and harassment of domestic sector workers by unscrupulous agents and employers in the Gulf countries. As per extant guidelines, the minimum age of ECR category female workers proceeding for overseas employment to ECR countries is 30 years. Their emigration for overseas employment is permitted only through the six designated state run recuitment agencies or through the Foreign Employer registered on e- Migrate system. In case of Foreign Employer, attestation of work contract by the Indian Mission in the destination country and submission of a bank guarantee of US $ 2500 is mandatory before the emigration clearance is granted by the Office of Protector of Emigrants.

The government is working in close coordination with Gulf countries towards extending all possible assistance to Indian nationals abroad. Presently, a section of Indian workers facing difficulties in two major Saudi companies namely, Saudi Oger and the Saad Group are being brought back to India in cooperation with the Saudi authorities. The process is nearing completion and 4870 Indian workers have returned so far. The Saudi authorities have extended necessary support to the affected Indian workers of these companies including in waiver of fines on Iqama (resident permit) related violations, providing exit visas and one way return tickets to India as well as transfer of sponsorship, wherever possible, on gratis basis.